

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03074 060848Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 PA-02 ICA-20 L-03 /044 W
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 774

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3074

FOR NEA/INS - MALOTT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE
SUBJ: THE HAPPY BUDDHA STEAK HOUSE

1. CEYLON DAILY NEWS REPORTER 4 JULY INFORMED US OF RECEIPT OF ADVERTISEMENT FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS "CHRONICLE" FOR "HAPPY BUDDHA STEAK HOUSE AND BAR, OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, ADDRESS 516 WESTHEIMER, TELEPHONE 527-8494." REPORTER SAID SRI LANKAN BUDDHIST IN TEXAS HAD SENT COPIES OF ADVERTISEMENT TO COLOMBO PRESS AND BUDDHIST ORGANIZATIONS IN SRI LANKA WITH REQUEST THAT THEY REQUEST USG TO STOP THIS OFFENSE TO BUDDHISTS, "AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"
2. WE REPLIED THAT WE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY SRI LANKAN BUDDHISTS CONSIDERED NAMING A RESTAURANT AFTER THE BUDDHA NOT A GOOD IDEA. OF COURSE, THERE WERE MANY BUDDHISTS IN AMERICA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHOSE TRADITIONS IN SUCH MATTERS WERE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF SRI LANKA. WE AGREED TO INFORM WASHINGTON OF SRI LANKAN BUDDHIST REACTION TO THE NAME OF THE HOUSTON ESTABLISHMENT, WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IT KNOWN TO THE PROPRIETORS,. WE HOPED THEY WOULD CONSIDER CHANGING THE NAME, THOUGH THE USG HAD NO MEANS OF COMPELLING THEM TO DO SO.
3. COMMENT. WHILE MANY SRI LANKAN BUDDHISTS EAT MEAT AND DRINK ALCOHOL, THE MOST OBSERVANT DO NOT. HOWEVER, ALL WOULD FIND

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OFFENSIVE THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE PICTURE OF THE LAUGHING BUDDHA IN THE ABHAYA MUDRA WITH HALO, INCLUDED IN AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR MEAT AND DRINK.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE INFORM US OF OUTCOME YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH "THE HAPPY BUDDHA STEAK HOUSE."

5. POSTSCRIPT: CHRONICLE ADVERTISEMENT REPRODUCED 6 JULY CEYLON
DAILY NEWS ACCOMPANIED BY REASONABLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF CONVERSATION
RECOUNTED PARAS ONE AND TWO SUPRA.
LEVIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PINT, CE, US
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